

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000428

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: COAG

Type of Question: Hansard Page 90, 19 October 2016

Senator: Reynolds, Linda

Question:

Senator REYNOLDS: Thank you, I appreciate that. Are you able to provide to the committee that University of New South Wales report that has gone out to COAG, the report that you commissioned and, presumably, that you paid for. If not, can you provide an extract of that report that actually shows—people commenting on this are concerned about it for very genuine reasons. We are operating a bit in the dark. We cannot really understand the position you have outlined. Is it possible to provide either that University of New South Wales report or at least the executive summary of the arguments on both sides? Please take that on notice.

Dr Southern: We can certainly take that on notice and we will do so. The WHO report that Ms Davis was quoting from is publicly available. That is probably an easily available source that brings together the state of the research at the moment.

Senator REYNOLDS: May we have both? If the taxpayers paid for the University of New South Wales report, unless there is something in there—

Dr Southern: We can take that on notice.

Senator REYNOLDS: It would be good to inform the public that bit further.

Answer:

No report has been provided to COAG as yet. As Dr Southern stated in her evidence, it is anticipated that the final report prepared by the University of Sydney will be ready for COAG health ministers to consider in early 2017. As this work was jointly commissioned on behalf of Commonwealth, state and territory governments, a dissemination strategy for the final report will be subject to agreement by these jurisdictions.

A draft of the discussion paper that informed that final report was published online in May 2016 without authority by an unknown source (<http://catallaxyfiles.com/2016/05/29/regulating-e-cigarettes-read-all-about-it/>). A copy of the final discussion paper is attached.

The August 2016 WHO report on e-cigarettes is available at:
www.who.int/fctc/cop/cop7/FCTC_COP_7_11_EN.pdf